Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSCE-00 PM-05 SSO-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 EB-08 OES-07 SOE-02 DODE-00 SS-15 SP-02 /095 W -------029715 171149Z /15

O P 171100Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6742
INFO DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC PRIORITY
DEPT OF ENERGY GERMANTOWN MD PRIORITY
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

UNCLAS MOSCOW 0736

DEPT PASS NRC FOR LAFLEUR

DEPT OF ENERGY FOR HILL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, ENRG, US, UR

SUBJECT: US-USSR ATOMIC ENERGY AGREEMENT: NUCLEAR SAFETY (07.06)

REF: (A) STATE 9752, (B) LAFLEUR/SCIOFF TELCON OF 13 JANUARY

1. DURING 16 JANUARY MEETING AT MINPOWER, TROSHIN EXPLAINED THAT IT IS NOW TOO LATE TO START US DEL VISIT ON 29 JANUARY, BUT THEY WOULD BE PLEASED TO RECEIVE DELEGATION FOR TWO-WEEK VISIT STARTING 5 FEBRUARY. DRAWING ON REF B, SCICOUNS STATED THAT SUCH TIMING WILL PROBABLY BE ACCEPTABLE.

2. VORONIN STATED THAT SOVIETS WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE FORM AND CONTENT OF A PROGRAM OF COOPERATION ON REACTOR SAFETY, AND ASKED WHETHER THE US DEL WOULD ALSO BE SO PREPARED. VORONIN SAID THAT SOVIETS DO NOT NOW HAVE A WRITTEN SET OF PROPOSALS, BUT ARE PREPARED TO USE THE EARLIER-PROVIDED U.S. PROPOSALS AS BASIS FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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DISCUSSIONS DURING THE VISIT. SCICOUNS NOTED THAT DISCUSSION ON EVENTUAL COOPERATIVE PROGRAM WILL BE BASED NOT ONLY ON U.S. PROPOSALS, BUT ALSO ON WHAT US DEL SEES DURING VISIT.

3. SOVIETS PROVIDED FOLLOWING LIST OF SITE VISITS AND REASONS FOR INCLUSION IN ITINERARY:

- (1) ARMENIAN AES (YEREVAN): SOLE SOVIET ATOMIC POWER STATION SITUATED IN AN ACTIVE SEISMIC ZONE, A CONSIDERATION THAT IS GIVING SOVIETS CONCERN AND WHICH THEY WANT US DEL TO SEE.
- (2) NOVOVORONEZH AES: ACTIVE POWER STATION.
- (3) LENINGRAD AES: ACTIVE POWER STATION.
- (4) INSTITUTE "TEPLOELEKTROPROYEKT" (MOSCOW): DESIGN INSTITUTE UNDER MINPOWER.
- (5) ALL-UNION THERMAN-TECHNICAL INSTITUTE IN DZERZHINSKIY (MOSCOW)
- (6) SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH SECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE "GIDROPROYEKT"; THIS SECTOR WORKS ON DESIGN OF AES'S, DESPITE INSTITUTE NAME.
- (7) ATOMIC ENERGY INSTITUTE KURCHATOV: SIDENKO WILL RECEIVE US DEL.
- (8) IZHORSKIY PLANT (IN SUBURB OF LENINGRAD): FACTORY FOR EQUIPMENT; SPECIALIZES IN NUCLEAR STEAM SUPPLY SYSTEMS.
 SOVIETS ALSO NOTED THAT SPECIALISTS FROM SCAE, GOSGORTEKHNADZOR, GOSSANNADZHOR, AND GOSATMMADZHOR WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE DISCUSSIONS AT MINPOWER ON REACTOR SAFETY AND ON FORMULATION OF THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM.
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- (3) TROSHIN SAID THAT DETAILED ITINERARY WILL BE PROVIDED IN NEXT SEVERAL DAYS, BUT PLANNING IS CURRENTLY:
- (A) FIRST SEVERAL DAYS: MEETING IN MOSCOW TO DISCUSS GENERAL FRAMEWORK OF COOPERATION, VISITS TO SEVERAL INSTITUTES; (B) VISIT TO YEREVAN TO SEE ARMENIAN STATION, DISCUSS REACTOR SAFETY IN SEISMIC ZONES;
- (C) RETURN TO MOSCOW FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON COOPERATION PROGRAMS;
- (D) VISIT TO NOVOVORONEZH,
- (E) VISIT TO LENINGRAD.
- 4. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON VISIT TO VOLGODANSK FACILITY, VORONIN SAID THAT FACILITY IS STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION, BUT THAT US DEL WOULD BE ABLE TO VISIT IT WHEN IT IS FINISHED. ASKED WHEN CONSTRUCTION WILL BE COMPLETE, VORNIN SAID THAT HE EXPECTS PLANT TO START PRODUCTION "NEXT YEAR."
- 5. VORONIN CONCLUDED WITH REQUEST THAT US DEL EXPLAIN TO SOVIETS IN DETAIL THE ASME STANDARDS FOR REACTORS. TROSHIN SAID THAT SOVIET HOSTS WOULD ALSO VERY MUCH APPRECIATE A COPY OF THE

ASME STANDARDS, IF US DEL COULD PROVIDE ONE.

6. COMMENT: GIVEN SERIOUSNESS OF SEISMIC PROBLEM ON NUCLEAR SITING QUESTION FOR BOTH COUNTRIES (E. G., DEVILS CANYON

FACILITY) AND SOVIET DESIRE TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER, WE HOPE THAT US DEL WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS SEISMIC ISSUE DURING VISIT. IF US DEL DOES NOT ALREADY INCLUDE EXPERT(S) ON SEISMIC QUESTIONS, WE SUGGEST NRC CONSIDER ADDING SUCH PERSONNEL TO MAXIMIZE BENEFIT TO U.S. FROM VISIT.

7. DEPT PLEASE ADVISE NRC: LAFLEUR OF FOREGOING (301-492-7788).
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: NUCLEAR ENERGY, AGREEMENTS, NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS, SAFETY, NUCLEAR SAFETY

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 17 jan 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a

Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment: Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW00736
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D780024-0811 Format: TEL From: MOSCOW

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780156/aaaabunh.tel

Line Count: 136 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: 72cecfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION NRC

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 78 STĂTE 9752

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 28 feb 2005 **Review Event:** Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a

Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3763205 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: US-USSR ATOMIC ENERGY AGREEMENT: NUCLEAR SAFETY (07.06)

TAGS: TGEN, ENRG, US, UR

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/72cecfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014